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AN IMPORTANT LOAN

AN important and varied collection of twenty-nine objects—Egyptian antiquities, ceramics, paintings, sculpture, textiles, and furniture—has recently been lent to the Museum by Mrs. Benjamin Thaw.

The pictures are six in number, and comprise a remarkable Madonna by Cosimo Rosselli, a portrait by Fiorenzo di Lorenzo, a Saint John by Simone Martini, a Madonna and Child by Fra Angelico, a Madonna, Child, and Angels by a Florentine master of the fifteenth century, and a portrait by Murillo. Further notice of these pictures will be made later.

Among the objects is an Egyptian head in the style of the Thirtieth Dynasty (378 to 342 B. C.), the brief period of Egypt's revolt against her Persian conquerors; her final period of independence under native rulers, when her artists founded that last of the schools of her national art which inspired the sculptors of the three centuries of Greek rule and the first hundred years under the Romans. It is the head of a woman, about life size (22.5 cm. or 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ in. high), wearing a close-fitting coiffure with a multitude of tightly curled little ringlets about her forehead and behind her ears. The face is slender and oval and the modeling, especially of the ear where the surface is undamaged, exquisitely finished.

The material is a white limestone almost as soft as plaster, which has lost something of its surface, particularly on the left side and on the nose and mouth, both of which have been very skilfully and accurately restored. Otherwise it is practically complete. It has been finished off on top, just above the line of the hair, and behind, just back of the ears, in flat planes; the base of the neck is rounded off, and the inside is hollowed out to a shell little more than two centimeters ($\frac{3}{4}$ in.) thick. No tenons or other attachments are visible by which it could have been joined to a statue, while on the other hand the material and the cutting away above and behind suggest that it was one of those sculptor's models with which every studio of the period was equipped.

Of Egyptian sculptor's models of this

period, the head in Mrs. Thaw's collection is undoubtedly one of the most charming pieces which have survived and the Museum is to be congratulated on this chance of showing it. It has as much simplicity with all its grace and elegance, and the faint shadowy smile that lightens the features gives to them as much refinement and serenity as the sculptors in Abydos put into the bas-reliefs of the temples of Seti I. The inspiration in this head is the living



HEAD, LIMESTONE, EGYPTIAN
XXX DYNASTY

sense of beauty which animated the late Egyptian school before the slavish reiteration of conventional models had completely divorced it from all reality. It has none of the insipid, flaccid modeling and colorless, simpering expression into which the Ptolemaic sculptors insensibly degenerated later, nor does it attempt the uncompromising realism of some of the earlier Saïte work. This head stands half-way between the two extremes, with a beauty aloof and detached but very much living.

The head has been placed on exhibition in the Thirteenth Egyptian Room opposite the case of sculptor's models which form part of the Museum collection.

The nine pieces of Rakka ware of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries included in Mrs. Thaw's loan are exhibited in E-14 and the small alcove which adjoins. These are characteristic pieces, tabourets and jars of various types, which came from the mounds of this ancient Mesopotamian city. They have the usual brilliant effect of iridescence which long exposure of the bluish glaze to the mineral elements of the soil has brought about.

Included in the loan are some important Italian sculptures of the Renaissance, which have not been exhibited as yet, but which will very shortly be placed on view: a bust of John the Baptist by Donatello, a kneeling Virgin by Giovanni della Robbia, and a marble medallion of the Virgin by Mino da Fiesole. There are also some beautiful pieces of furniture, Italian tables of the eighteenth century and a secrétaire of the period of Louis XVI.

NOTES

ELECTION OF A TRUSTEE. At the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on Monday, December 18, Henry S. Pritchett, President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, was elected a Trustee to fill a vacancy in the Class of 1917.

THE ANNUAL MEETING. The forty-seventh annual meeting of the Members of the Corporation of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, under an amendment to the Constitution, will be held in the Board Room Monday afternoon, January 15, at 4 o'clock.

A report of the transactions of the year 1916 will be presented by the Trustees, and addresses will be made by the President, Robert W. de Forest, the Director, Edward Robinson, and others.

An amendment to the Constitution, offered by the Board of Trustees, will be voted upon.

Afterwards, tea will be served.

WILLIAM M. CHASE MEMORIAL EXHIBITION. The plans for the William M. Chase Memorial Exhibition are progressing satisfactorily. Enough works have already been offered to insure the success of the undertaking from all points of view. The problem of the committee is to select from the large number of works which are available those pictures that best illustrate the various stages of Mr. Chase's career, and at the same time can be shown to the

greatest advantage in the space set aside for this purpose.

The exhibition will be held in Gallery 24, now used for the French and English pictures, which, for the time, will be removed from exhibition. February 19 has been set as the date for the private opening, and February 20 for the beginning of the public exhibition.

MEMBERS' RECEPTION. The President and Trustees of the Museum will receive the Members and their friends on Tuesday evening, January 16, at half past eight o'clock. The reception committee will be William Church Osborn, George Blumenthal, and Daniel Chester French. The programme of music to be given by an orchestra under the direction of David Mannes will be as follows:

1. Elgar March
2. Beethoven Allegro from the Fifth Symphony
3. Grainger Irish Tune from County Derry
4. Grieg Norwegian Dances
5. Tschaikowsky Finale from the Sixth Symphony
6. Chabrier Rhapsodie Esp  na
7. Beethoven Leonore Overture No. III
8. Wagner Prelude to Die Meistersinger
9. Wagner Overture to Tannh  user
10. Wagner The Ride of the Walk  re